

preserve the peace when sitting there; and it is a third matter in this union and peace to perfect ourselves in love. The three expressions above refer severally to constitutional union, the general peace, and to personal perfection.

#### I. CONSTITUTIONAL UNION.

Constitutional union is to be pleaded for, from

1. The one Creed.
2. The prayer of Christ. John 17.
3. The common destinies of all the Churches.
4. The duty of converting the world. John 17.
5. The duty of perfecting the saints. John 17.

These arguments should be linked to the general sentiment of union as with a chain of adamant by a direct and impassioned eloquence till union obtains.

So remarkable did the Apostolic Christians make themselves with mankind by their virtues, that others were wont to say: "See how these Christians love one another." And so jealous were they and the Primitive Church of union, that they did not permit two meeting-houses in the same city for the first three hundred years. Lord Chancellor King, in his book on the primitive Church, proves this fact. Even in the largest cities of the Empire—Antioch, Jerusalem, Alexandria, and Rome, the brethren worshiped in the same house for three hundred years. His lordship says, that an additional chapel was first permitted in Alexandria about the end of the third century.

#### II. THE BOND OF PEACE.

But secondly: Although no man can lay another foundation for God's Church than that which God himself has laid, namely; that Jesus is the Christ, yet when planted even on this basis, Christians may pursue a bad policy, indulge in bad temper, or a bad spirit, and, like Joseph's brethren, require to be admonished not to fall out by the way. There is, therefore, given to them "*a bond of peace*," Eph. 4, as well as a basis of Union. The Church is encircled with a band of great and high considerations conservative of her peace, namely:

1. That there is but one body or Church.
2. One spirit of which all are partakers.
3. One hope to which all are called.
4. One Lord who has died for all.
5. One faith—the Creed of all.